

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, 9th February 1924.

The House met at 11 o'clock; the hon. the President (Diwan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIKANNU PILLAI Avargal, C.I.E., I.S.O.) in the Chair.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions and answers shall be arranged in order of subjects.

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial numbers of his questions, and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

The Text-Book Committee.

433 Q.—MR. ABBAS ALI KHAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the constitution of the Text-Book Committee was recently altered so as to vest the nominations with the Minister for Education;

(b) whether any members were appointed to the Committee by the Minister, and, if so, how many of them are Brahmans, non-Brahmans, Mussalmans, Indian Christians and Adi-Dravidas; and

(c) how many of these are from Telugu districts and more especially from the district of Ganjam?

A.—(a) Under the old rules the power to appoint members of the Text-Book Committee vested in the Government; it was delegated to the Director of Public Instruction in 1908. Under G.O. No. 546, Law (Education), dated 11th April 1923, published on page 391 of Part I-B of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 24th April 1923, the nomination of members to the Committee will hereafter be made by the Director subject to the approval of Government.

(b) & (c) The answer to the first part of clause (b) is in the negative.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

Co-operative Credit Societies for depressed classes in Malabar.

434 Q.—MR. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Co-operative Credit Societies for the depressed classes in the Malabar district; and

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(b) whether the Malabar Adi-Dravida Jana Sabha sent representations to the hon. Minister to appoint a special Inspector for organizing and supervising Co-operative Credit Societies and Stores for the depressed classes; if so, what steps were taken in the matter?

- A.—(a) The Government have no information but will call for it.
(b) No such representation has been received.

Non-gazetted services.

Allowances granted to non-gazetted subordinate servants in the Wynad taluk.

435 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government were granting from 1885 an allowance equal to 50 per cent of pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 to all non-gazetted subordinate servants employed in the Wynad taluk of the district of Malabar;

(b) whether the Government have discontinued this allowance entirely in the case of subordinates who are natives of, or domiciled in, Wynad and reduced it considerably in cases of other subordinates, with effect from 1st September 1923;

(c) whether the Government have received any memorial on the subject from the subordinate officers concerned;

(d) whether, having regard to the unhealthiness of the locality, the high cost of living, want of facilities for educating children and the necessity for warm clothing, the Government will be pleased to restore the 50 per cent allowance; and

(e) whether the Revenue Divisional Officer and the District Forest Officer of Wynad who are gazetted officers are even now allowed to draw monthly allowances of Rs. 150 and 100 respectively?

A.—(a) An allowance of 50 per cent of pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 per mensem was granted in some cases; in others a lower rate was adopted.

(b) The allowance has been discontinued in the case of officers and subordinates who are natives of or domiciled in the Wynad. With effect from 1st September 1923 a revised scale of allowances applicable to the Wynad and other unhealthy localities has been introduced on the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee. The effect of this has been to increase the payment in some cases, to reduce it in others.

(c) Certain subordinate officers in the Registration Department have submitted memorials.

(d) No. The Government consider the scale of allowances adequate.

(e) Orders are under issue revising these allowances.

MR. S. SATYAMURTI:—“ May I ask the hon. the Home Member with reference to the answer to clause (d) of this question, whether the Government consider the scale of allowances adequate after any inquiry made after the question was received, or whether it is a mere expression of opinion of the Government after the memorial of the persons concerned? ”